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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4664
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0930
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0007
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9703
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0215
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 4191
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1647
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3373
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0393
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6799
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4414
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 0780
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0782
RUDKIA/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 0452
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2713
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RANGOON 000775

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: DESPITE REGIME SECRECY, AUNG SAN SUU KYI RECOVERING

RANGOON 00000775 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Acting P/E Chief TLManlowe for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

11. (C) Summary: According to National League for Democracy (NLD) officials and her doctor, NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi has now recovered from a recent illness that drew worldwide concern. Despite the ruling regime's tight control over information about her illness, which began on June 8, her doctor was allowed extended access this weekend to see ASSK at her home. At the same time, the underlying conditions that provoke concern for her well-being remain unchanged: the regime confirmed at a June 10 press conference that ASSK's detention under house arrest has been extended by one year, and attacked U.S. efforts to raise Burma at the UN Security Council. End summary.

Secrecy About the Illness

12. (C) Rumors of Aung San Suu Kyi's illness began circulating in Rangoon late on Friday night, June 9, after word of her possible hospitalization bounced back to the country from overseas Burma watchers. Senior NLD officials and others we contacted on Friday were initially unaware of developments. We spoke to NLD leaders again today and they confirmed that ASSK developed a serious stomach/intestinal ailment on June 8, possibly from eating mangoes growing on her property. ASSK's family doctor, Dr. Tin Myo Win (please protect), visited her on Thursday, June 8, and again on Friday, June 9, after he received an urgent call at 10:00 am while working at the Muslim Free Hospital. He left immediately to treat ASSK at her home. According to NLD, he found her on Friday suffering from serious diarrhea and dehydration. Both Dr. Tin Myo Win and a colleague, Dr. Pyone Mo Ei, stayed with ASSK all day on Friday and much of the night. They visited

her again on June 10 and 11, and reported that she has now recovered, and was not ever hospitalized.

¶4. (C) Regime authorities did not release any information about Aung San Suu Kyi's condition, and her doctor remained unavailable for comment over the weekend while he was treating her. NLD spokesman Myint Thein told us on June 10 that NLD leaders would not make any official statement until Monday to allow the doctor a chance to request official action, if necessary. In addition to seeking updates on ASSK's conditions from local contacts, on June 10, the Embassy sent a diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressing concern about Aung San Suu Kyi's illness, calling on the GOB to provide her with expeditious medical care and reiterating our call to release her from detention. Q GOB has not responded. NLD Spokesperson U Myint Thein expressed appreciation today for U.S.G. support throughout this health scare.

Regime Confirms Detention, Attacks U.S. at Press Event

¶5. (SBU) On June 9, at a previously scheduled press conference in Hap'An, Karen State (which an emboff attended), Information Minister Brig. Gen. Kyaw Hsan confirmed that the GOB extended Aung San Suu Kyi's detention for another year on May 27 under Section 10B of the "Law Safeguarding the State from the Danger of Subversive Elements." He defended her extended detention, stating that she and other political prisoners broke Burmese law, so their detention "is not a violation of their human rights." He also denied that the GOB impedes NLD political activities, and claimed that recent group resignations of NLD members in selected townships were not coerced. Police Director-General Brig. Gen. Khin Yi continued with further criticism of NLD activities, repeating many accusations that have appeared in the government press in recent weeks, and contradicting his surprising comment

RANGOON 00000775 002.2 OF 002

last month in Malaysia that ASSK and the NLD were no longer considered security threats.

¶6. (U) The Information Minister added at the same press conference that the SPDC rejected the efforts of "super power and anti-government groups" to put Burma on the UN Security Council agenda. He said the GOB would respond diplomatically and through media, stressing that Myanmar poses no threat to international or "even regional security." The Minister also denounced a recently announced plan by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to use satellite imaging to reveal potential abuses in ethnic areas of Burma. Kyaw San claimed the AAAS, "in collusion with the U.S. Campaign for Burma," would try to fabricate photos of alleged abuses by the army. He claimed that it would be impossible to determine whether people captured in the satellite photos would be from the Burmese army or from Karen insurgent groups staging "village burnings" and other abuses.

¶7. (C) Comment: While ASSK's apparent recovery from food poisoning this weekend is a relief, the conditions which contribute to global concern remain unchanged. The ruling regime still controls all access to her tightly, even for her family doctor, and refuses to release any information about her condition until forced to respond to international pressure. The regime's June 10 press conference, confirming another year of detention for ASSK and launching yet another vitriolic attack on the West, shows that the regime plans to carry on with business as usual. End comment.

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